



The Wrangell Wire

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is rich in a variety of cultural resources. They vary greatly in age, complexity and significance. Managing these resources is a daunting task because each site, pre-historic or historic, must, literally, be dealt with on a case by case basis. Some of the most visible and well-known cultural resources in the Park are associated with mining during the late 1800's and early 1900's. These can be large sites covering thousands of acres and comprising hundreds of features. Analyzing these sites feature by feature does not provide a complete picture of the larger site's complex development over time or of its historical significance.

Cultural resource managers recognize the shortcomings of a piece-meal approach to planning for the preservation of large, multi-component sites. In the early 1980's they began to define the term cultural landscape. A cultural landscape is a geo-

graphic area that includes not only the cultural resources themselves but the natural resources within the area as well. Cultural Landscape Reports (CLR) are becoming a useful tool for the long term management and the principle treatment document for sites like the Kennecott Mill Site in many national parks. In addition to Kennecott, Cultural Landscape Reports have been prepared for the Chisana-Gold Hill District and the Bremner Historic District within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

A cultural landscape report (CLR) has two major components. The first portion of the report is devoted to site history, documentation of existing conditions and analysis and evaluation of the landscape. The site his-

tory includes a detailed examination of the historic context and contributing features of the cultural landscape. This is accomplished by a thorough review of historic documents, archaeological field studies and other specialized sciences. The existing conditions documents characteristics of the landscape, such as vegetation, buildings, and roads or paths, as they exist today. Analysis and evaluation of the landscape identifies the significance of those characteristics as they apply to the entire landscape. These uses and conditions are important factors to be considered and may influence treatment recommendations.

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**Commisioners Cabin,
Chisana**





It's spring! It's hard to believe, but another cycle of dark giving way to light proves that for every day with the sun barely visible, we can expect and welcome a day that seems to be endless. And we're now on the upswing!



The 2001 season promises great changes for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. The long anticipated visitor center complex will be built this year and should be in full operation for the 2002 visitor season. The completion of that project will certainly be an occasion for a party and we'll keep you informed of that as we move along. The third full season of work at Kennecott will be underway soon, and we hope visible signs of improvement and building stabilization will cheer our spirits as the sun begins to fade away come fall.

We expect that a full slate of visitors from various NPS, Department of Interior, and Congressional offices will make their way to Wrangell-St. Elias this summer, and we'll be making efforts to have these visitors meet and talk with as many of you as possible given their schedules and such. But if you happen to see park staff

walking about in your neighborhood with important looking people in tow, please don't hesitate to come up and say hello.

We are looking forward to a full, exciting, and successful summer and we certainly wish the same for all your seasonal endeavors. As always, please don't hesitate to give us a call if you have questions or comments on park activities and objectives. We'll look forward to talking with you! In the meantime, have a great summer!

Gary Candeleria

Volume I Issue V Spring/Summer 2001

Anne Crow, Gary Candeleria, Devi Sharp, Hunter Sharp in Kennicott

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It doesn't require an interpreter to convince our friends and neighbors that this was a very unusual winter. Nevertheless, we hope that you all had a few opportunities to enjoy the season— whether on snowmachine, dog sled, snowshoes, or skis. We managed to squeeze in some cross-country skiing in February, but following the extended warm spell in March, began preparing for another summer.

Many of last year's seasonal staff will soon be back. Most are local students coming home from college for the summer. Their personal knowledge of the area is invaluable to visitors who need information about either the park or the region. We are looking forward to the return of these enthusiastic and experienced employees.

We are also acquiring some additional personnel. For the first time in the park's brief history, we have stationed a permanent interpretive ranger,

Vicki Rood, in Slana. A long time Nabesna resident, Vicki brings extensive knowledge of the local area. In addition to greeting visitors at the Slana Visitor Center, she will provide outreach to local communities and deliver special programs along the Nabesna road.

Representatives of the Yakutat community, the Yak-Tat Kwaan, the U.S. Forest Service, and the National Park Service began developing a Long Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP) for the Yakutat district last fall. Designed to guide interpretive activities for the next ten years, the plan is progressing nicely and will soon be available for public

review. We are also hiring an interpretive ranger in Yakutat who will operate our visitor center and work with the local residents there.

As part of the park's increased emphasis on interpretation associated with our new visitor center, we intend to hire an education coordinator this summer to manage all of our outreach activities. In a related effort, we have also developed a Science Curriculum Activity Guide to support local science education. Copies of the guide

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Interpretation crew studies the Gilahina trestle while taking a lunch break on the McCarthy Road





Subsistence

A new regulation passed by the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) in May 2000 requires subsistence moose hunters in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve to obtain a federal permit. This new requirement includes all portions of Unit 11 and 13c that are located in either the park or preserve. The FSB made this regulation change in response to requests by local residents to use the head rather than the sex organs as proof of sex. Since this differs from state requirements, the FSB felt that a federal permit would identify federal subsistence users and reduce confusion. Permits are free and available from the NPS offices in Copper Center and Slana.

The next Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC) meeting will be held in September 2001 at the Native Village of Mentasta Lake. The exact date has not yet been set and may be adjusted to avoid scheduling conflicts. The SRC plans to review the proposals for regulation changes to the Federal Subsistence fishing regulations for 2002.

Staff Profiles



Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve staff is pleased to welcome **Geoffrey Bleakley, Ph.D.** as park historian. Although his position is new, Geoff is not new to WRST. He has been living in Tazlina for 7 years while working various term and seasonal positions for the park. Currently he serves on the board of directors for the Alaska Historical Society and as an adjunct professor at PWSCC. His main projects at WRST include documenting the administrative history of the park and managing the historic photograph collection and historic sites database. Geoff also evaluates buildings and structures for historic significance and integrity and determines eligibility for the National Register. He is in charge of the National Register program for the park and works with local communities on nominating sites to the National Register of Historic Places.

Geoff first came to Alaska in 1974 “to climb Denali.” He soon discovered there were many mountains to climb. He has been here since, living in Fairbanks, Soldotna, Tazlina and a remote homestead on the Alaska Range. Geoff likes to collect books and historic photographs, backpack and kayak. His favorite place in WRST is the White River country and Solo Mountain.



An exchange from down under

Danny Rosenkrans, WRST's geologist and ten-year resident of the Copper Basin, will be participating in an exchange program with a National Park in western Australia. Danny, Arlene, and the kids will be in Australia for a year. Arvid Hogstrom, Exmouth District Operations Officer for Cape Range National Park and Ningaloo Marine Park in western Australia, will join the Wrangell's staff. The swap will take place in early June.

Trapping

We have received a few complaints from Slana residents about local trappers placing their sets on trails used by dog mushers, skijorers, and cross-country skiers. While it is legal to set traps on trails, the state recommends that trappers consider the safety of other users. As the number of people using these trails will inevitably increase, it will be easier for all of us if we employ common courtesy to avoid future conflicts. This is a much better way to solve this problem than implementing new regulations.

Sheep research

The park staff has long recognized the need to better understand the factors influencing its Dall's sheep population. WRST is renowned for its number of sheep, and the large horns carried by its rams. Recent estimates suggest that WRST holds about 20 percent of the world's population, and about 30 percent of those located in Alaska. Approximately 30 percent of the total Alaska harvest is obtained from WRST. This summer (2001) the park will be initiating fieldwork to study the relationship between Dall's sheep and their habitat.

Bear research in McCarthy

Jim Wilder, a graduate student from the University of Idaho, will continue his fieldwork this summer on bear-human conflicts in the McCarthy-Kennecott area. Jim hopes to determine the number of local bears and to record the types of bear-human conflicts which occur. This will improve the park's ability to make good management decisions.

Preliminary data from last year show that 77% of the incidents involved local residents and the remaining 23% involved park visitors. Not surprisingly, human food was the greatest draw, but burn barrels, compost, and livestock (chickens, pigs, horses and rabbits) also attracted their share of bears. This highlights an important fact about bear management—we do have quite a bit of control over the sources of food that become the focus of bear-human interactions and situations that habituate bears to human foods. It is everyone's responsibility to keep food and similar attractants away from bears.





Hello from the Northern Region of the Wrangells. This summer at the Slana Ranger station you should see some familiar faces and a few brand new ones. Thelma Schrank, Vicki Rood and Lee Penwell will all be back to assist District Ranger Marshall Neeck with his operation. Heather Yates will be joining the crew as a Law Enforcement Ranger. A couple of interns from the lower 48 will be helping out as well. There will be expanded exhibits at the Ranger Station and the introduction of visitor programs courtesy of Vicki Rood. Thelma Schrank will be overseeing ATV, hunting and fishing permits. Lee Penwell will be handling a variety of maintenance tasks.

Marshall Neeck has arranged for a volunteer group from the Sierra Club to be in the area this July. They will be cleaning up trash around the old lodge at Black Mountain. The fish weir project at Tanada Creek will continue this summer. Jan Bullock, Rosie Nelson, and Carol Zoeller will spearhead that endeavor once again. The park maintenance division will be making some improvements to the short trail leading into Long Lake and to the trail into Batzulnetas. The maintenance folks will also be making some improvements to the Slana Bunkhouse and the airstrip at Chisana.

Marshall Neeck and park resource management staff will be working with the Slana Community Corporation to develop a plan to address problems with the access road into the South Slana Settlement. Park Planner, Vicki Snitzler, will be working with community members and Alaska State DOT&PF to develop a Scenic Corridor Plan for the Nabesna Road.

Recent property acquisitions under way at Mile 30 and Mile 2 of the Nabesna Road will probably be completed this summer. The property

at Mile 2 may be used for employee housing. The staff plans to explore that idea over the next few months. The Mile 30 property is not currently slated for development, though we may do some minor trail work in the area.

A number of private landowners have projects scheduled this summer, that the park staff may monitor. There is the road work planned at the Nabesna Mine and near Jack Lake, and stream bank stabilization scheduled in Chisana.

Hikers at the Slana Ranger Station



Summer Employment:

The National Park Service will be employing a Yakutat student for the summer, in cooperation with the Tlingit and Haida Central Council. To qualify for the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program, students must be Native Alaskan, fourteen years of age or older, from a low-income family. Employment is full time and lasts approximately twelve weeks. Applications may be picked up at the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe beginning in late May or early June. For further information, call coordinator Karen Reiss at Yakutat Tlingit Tribe.

Reminders:

The National Park Service would like to remind you that all commercial fishing cabin permit fees are due annually. If you would like to pay your cabin permit fee or check the status of your permit, please contact the Yakutat Ranger Station.

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve would like to remind Yakutat residents that sport hunting is allowed only within the preserve. Subsistence hunting is allowed in both the park and

preserve on the Malaspina Forelands, provided you are a resident of the Yakutat Resident Zone. Those residents who choose to subsistence hunt on the Forelands outside the preserve must get an aircraft permit if they plan to access the area by aircraft.

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve would like to remind you that anyone interested in running a private rafting trip down the Alsek/Tatshenshini River must obtain a permit from the Yakutat Ranger Station. Glacier Bay would also like to remind you that the public use cabin at Dry Bay requires a reservation and permit. The cabin permit is available at a cost of \$25 per day with a maximum stay of fourteen days, except during moose season, when the cabin is available on a lottery system with a maximum stay of seven days.

For more information about the Dry Bay cabin, or any of the other items discussed in this article, please feel free to drop by or phone the Yakutat Ranger Station at 784-3295.

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will be available to schools and will be adaptable to most regions of Alaska.

The NPS has finished designing the visitor center's outdoor exhibits, and their fabrication is currently underway. We have reviewed a preliminary cut of the new park film and its final editing will soon be finished. The main interior exhibits are nearing completion as well, but they will require a little more time. Stop by headquarters for a look at what all is in the works.

With our larger and more experienced staff, we plan to expand local services,

offering daily programs at Kennecott and special ones throughout the remainder of the Basin. We will also provide a few scholarships for teachers to attend nature writing workshops at the Wrangell Mountain Center in McCarthy. Interpretive park rangers may be available for special group programs by reservation. To inquire, e-mail Ruth Warden at ruth_warden@nps.gov or call 822-7258. **We wish you a great summer and be safe.**



Hello from Vicki Snitzler, Park Planner, and for this summer the Superintendent's representative to Kennecott/McCarthy. Hunter Sharp, who has been filling that position for the past year is in Washington, D.C., until July on a temporary assignment. Hunter will be the Alaska Desk Officer, which means he will be the Regional Director's Washington representative on all Alaska Park issues. Although we hate to lose Hunter for the summer, we know that this is a wonderful opportunity for both him and us.

I plan to arrange my schedule so that I will be in the McCarthy/Kennecott area every two weeks or so starting in May. I look forward to working with all the community members on a variety of issues and projects.

I wanted to give you a brief overview of all the activities planned for this field season in the McCarthy/Kennecott vicinity.

First off, the Cultural Landscape Report and Operations Plan for the Kennecott NHL is currently being printed and should be available for coffee tables shortly. I want to thank everyone for their participation in the planning process. I think the document was vastly improved by all your comments.

We will be continuing to work on plans for camping in the area. WRST is considering a walk-in campground on the east side of the Kennicott River on the glacial moraine near the airport. We are also temporarily closing the area adjacent to the kiosk to camping due to continuing concerns about bears, trespass on private property, and competition with private campground operators. Until we can build a facility that minimizes the bears' access to human food, we feel it unsafe for visitors to camp. All of these issues and a myriad of related ones will be analyzed in an environmental assessment that we hope to have

out for public review in a few months.

Additionally, we will be starting a transportation plan for the area this coming July. We hope to look at issues of transportation within the NHL and from the end of the McCarthy road up to the NHL. We hope to have both community members and the Alaska DOT&PF participate in this planning effort. We will continue to work with DOT&PF on the Kennicott River Wayside project and the McCarthy Road Roundtable project.

The Architectural Control Committee for the Kennecott Millsite Subdivision will have revised covenants and architectural guidelines for review. We may also get some survey work done as well.

Our Maintenance Division, led by Will Tipton and Jim Baker, will have another busy summer. Will is currently looking for a project manager to help him with the workload. Crews are scheduled to do stabilization work on the West Bunkhouse, Machine Shop, Recreation Hall, Depot, General Manager's Office, and Company Store. Lead paint abatement will be started on the schoolhouse. We will be looking into improving the low water crossing at National Creek and locating a place along the old wagon road where we can store materials. The park's trail crew will be constructing a short day-hiking trail along the McCarthy Road in the Crystalline Hills area.

Our Resource Management Division will be closing adits at Jumbo and Bonanza mines for safety reasons. They will be cleaning up abandoned mining sites at Nikolai Ridge, Crumb Gulch, and Glacier Creek/Radovan. They will also be sponsoring research at Iceberg Lake and at the Kennecott mines.

All of these projects will mean a variety of staff. There will be four interpreters, including Nancy Cook, Katy Steiger, and Gaia Thruston-Shaine. Jim Baker's 16-man maintenance crew will include a lot of folks returning from last year. Seasonal Ranger Rich Richotte will also be stationed in the area this summer.

The second component of the CLR addresses the treatment of the various characteristics and features of the cultural landscape, including vegetation, transportation, architectural features and archaeological features. This section describes the preservation strategy for the long-term management of the cultural landscape. Treatment decisions are based on a number of factors including legislative and management factors, resource-based factors and operational factors. Individual features and their treatment interventions are addressed in this section of the report.

The addition of the Kennecott National Historic Landmark to Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve gives both the National Park Service and the community an opportunity to preserve and interpret an intact cultural landscape of national importance. The designation National Historic Landmark (NHL) means that the Kennecott NHL is considered to be of national significance to the history of the United States. The preservation of Kennecott's cultural landscape is critical because so many of the physical features and characteristics that define its significance remain intact.

The importance of the site goes well beyond the red and white buildings that are familiar from books and postcards. The things that make Kennecott important historically include the setting, the mining

technology that developed there, the development of a company mill town, and the history of the people who lived and worked at the site from miners, to mill workers, to nurses, and to the children who grew up there. It would be impossible to capture the character of Kennecott if it were managed, preserved or interpreted building by building without regard to the surrounding area or the relationship of the various features to each other over time.



The summer of 1999 marked the beginning of large-scale NPS operations at the Kennecott Mill Site. Safety issues will be addressed along with the stabilization of structures, the stabilization and rehabilitation of structures, interpretation of the site as well as the reestablishment of the historic character of the site. This project will continue for a number of years and has resulted in many local-hire jobs. The Kennecott Interim Management Plan, which defines how the NHL will be managed, was based on recommendations in the CLR.

The Kennecott Interim Management Plan completed recently following a public review process, is an appendix to the Kennecott CLR. It addresses management of cultural resources and natural resources, interpretation, administration and operations at the NHL. The CLR, which includes the Interim Management Plan, will be an amendment to the Park's General Management Plan.

Copies of the ***Cultural Landscape Report – Bremner Historic District*** by Paul J. White are available in limited numbers at Park Headquarters in Copper Center, Alaska. The Kennecott CLR will also be available in limited numbers some time this summer. Call Anne Worthington at (907) 822-7238 to request a copy.

Future issues of the Wrangell Wire will include articles highlighting some of the many fascinating aspects of the three cultural landscapes in the Park.



The Yakutat Ranger Station will be open this season from Tuesday through Saturday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, beginning Tuesday, April 24, 2001. The Yakutat Ranger Station is located in the first floor of the Jacobson Office Building, on Mallott Avenue, between Yakutat True Value Hardware and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. We invite you to stop by, peruse our library and gift shop, and ask questions regarding interpretive programs scheduled for the summer season.

Interpretation:

The National Park Service is busy preparing for the summer season. Beginning in May, we invite you to meet with us on Wednesdays at noon for our Brown Bag Luncheon. Each week, we will have a guest speaker or video about the natural and cultural resources of the Yakutat area. As May approaches, watch for the Brown Bag Luncheon schedule to be posted on bulletin boards around town. Bring a sack lunch and join us in the conference room at the Yakutat Ranger Station!

Resource

News:

We are pleased to report that this past February, biologist Neil Barten of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, in cooperation with the National Park Service, conducted an aerial survey of the moose population on the Malaspina Forelands within the Wrangell-St. Elias National



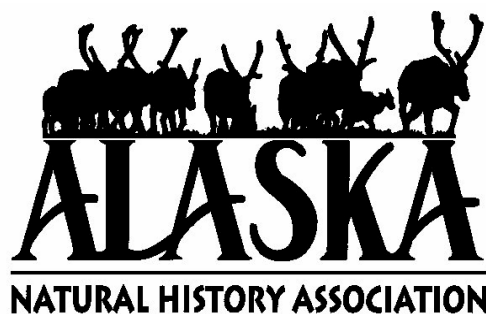
Preserve. Though cows with calves were identified, the speed and maneuverability of the aircraft used to complete the survey made it difficult to identify the age and gender of most of the animals. A total of 61 moose were spotted during the survey, which lasted approximately an hour and a half.

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Not Just about Books

-By Mona Jones, Association Branch Manager

Sharing Alaska's natural and cultural heritage is the primary goal of the Alaska Natural History Association. Books are just one of the tools offered by the Association to accomplish this goal. They are an important part of our activities, but not the only thing.



Established in 1959, this non-profit organization works in partnership with the public land agencies in Alaska to support their mission to manage and preserve public lands. In our case at Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park and Preserve, the Association assists the National Park Service in building understanding and awareness about the natural, historical, and cultural resources of the area.

So how does the Association accomplish this? The most obvious way is through the publication and distribution of books through the bookstores operated at the visitor centers. Books provide knowledge in words and pictures to a broad audience. They are easily shared with others. Because we learn in many different ways the Association offers a variety of educational products. Visual images like posters, postcards, and video's offer another way to experience and share Alaska's amazing features. Of course, experiencing our park and public lands first hand is the most memorable way to learn. Our bookstores supplement those experiences with knowledge and products that can be shared with others.

All revenue earned from bookstore sales goes to support the educational objectives of both the Park and the Association. These earnings provide funds for new publications, some of which are provided free at visitor centers. The Association works with the Park Service and other agencies to produce new materials on topics for which information is hard to acquire. Currently the Association is working on many projects. The book most recently completed for our Park is *A Geologic Guide to Wrangell-Saint Elias*, which was a collaboration between the Association, the Park, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

Private citizens who value our public lands also help support the Alaska Natural History Association. Annual membership is only \$25 with benefits including a 15% discount at Association bookstores and website (www.alaskanha.org), the caribou logo pin, and the newsletter, catalog and other mailings. Member's contributions broaden and enrich the experiences that both neighbors and visitors enjoy at our Park.

Since one of the best ways to learn something is to experience it, a portion of the annual revenue is set aside for hands-on programs. The Association supports community events, youth educational programs, interpretative staff training and scholarships for teacher's workshops. Supplies, reference publications, and design and production services of printed materials are just some examples of the direct support the Association provides for educational activities. Other ventures include historical documentation, curriculum writing, and donations to local libraries.

Organizations, like the Alaska Natural History Association exist to provide either direct services or vital financial support for ongoing educational experiences that people enjoy at our public places. Through the revenue created by the bookstores and from donations and memberships the Association helps fill in the gaps and stretches the budgets of the government agencies that manage these public places.

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*A Newsletter by the staff of Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve
for the people of the Copper River Basin*

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